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Australia's oldest soccer newspaper

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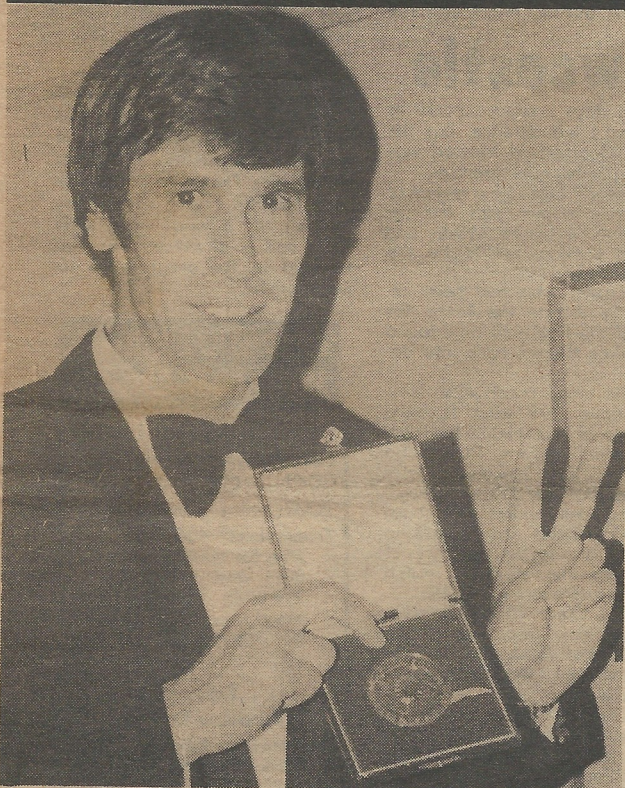


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PHILIPS CHIEF PREDICTS:

PSL BOOM IN '79

NEW POST?



*John Watkiss, one of the best qualified candidates
for the post of national team assistant manager.*

Socceroos to get new young staff

The new Socceroo squad, to be announced shortly, will have a new assistant coach and a new masseur.

National supremo Rudi Gutendorf said this week that he would like to have younger men to replace Joe Vlasits and Peter van Rijn.

Sutherland's John Watkiss, perhaps the best player Australia has produced, is now a successful coach and is a candidate for the assistant coaching position, together with Melita's Raul Blanco.

"This has nothing to do with the trip to Paraguay," he said, "it would have happened even if we had won the tournament.

"In the long run, we need younger men around the team.

"I know both Vlasits and Rijn have done great jobs for soccer and I certainly hope the ASF will properly recognise this.

"They won't be 'sacked', merely pensioned off from this post which is so very demanding.

"I guess the same will happen to me when I reach their age: it's a natural process."

Gutendorf will also request the ASF that in future they allow him to choose his co-officials for national team duty, in Australia or overseas.

"I want professionals around the team who can really help when the pressure is on; people who are dedicated and single-minded.

"I don't know if the ASF will accept my recommendations or not; I know that a lot of politics is involved."

P.S.: Peter van Rijn last Monday notified ASF secretary Brian Le Ferve that he would be no longer available for national team duties.

"In view of recent developments, I thought the best was to quit," he said.

By Herman Huyer, Chairman and Managing Director, Philips Industries Holdings Ltd.

It's not so long ago that most people believed an Australia-wide soccer league would never happen and, when it finally did, that it wouldn't last. In 1978 we proved all these people wrong.

AMPOL CUP THIS WEEK

A speeded-up process will be needed to bring the 1979 NSW Ampol Cup to its conclusion.

Last Sunday's semifinals, cancelled because of the torrential downpour, will be played on Sunday at Wentworth Park.

And, if all goes well, Sydney's final will be held next week.

At 9pm last Sunday the matches were still "on" — and then Wentworth Park received an hour's further deluge turning into an inland sea.

It's really a pity that Wentworth Park's massive facelift doesn't include a rebuilding of its archaic drainage system.

Two or three hours of solid rain can wreck the surface beyond recognition.

If England's soccer grounds had the same drainage under their pitches, what with THAT weather, they would be still playing their postponed matches from the 1931 season.

Perhaps Barton Stadium's surface would have been playable — but it wasn't possible to make a last-minute switch of venues.

Despite considerable advances in the field of facilities, our ground problems are far from over.

Barton Stadium will soon have a covered stand — but no floodlights for many months; Wentworth Park also has some covered facilities but a bad surface and, again no lights.

Marconi does have floodlights of a modest standard — but no covered accommodation, while Garside Park can only offer the coldest of cold comforts and prehistoric floodlights.

What's been achieved in the two seasons so far — and what about the season just beginning?

Overall, there has been a marked increase in crowds at Philips Soccer League matches. In the case of Canberra City, for example, the increase was 192 per cent on the first year.

It's certain that soccer is attracting far more media attention than ever before. More space in newspapers and magazines, more coverage on radio and more exposure on TV prove this.

This increase in interest is not only good for soccer and for the Philips Soccer League, but

also good for every individual club involved in this enterprise.

It is often said that only fools rush in where angels fear to tread. Philips didn't exactly rush in on the sponsorship which made the League possible but I have a feeling a lot of people thought we were fools anyway.

Now other sponsors are jumping on the bandwagon — and when you have "angels" on side, it's a sure sign of success.

So the future looks bright. A lot of problems have been overcome but, no doubt, there will be problems again in the season which starts this week.

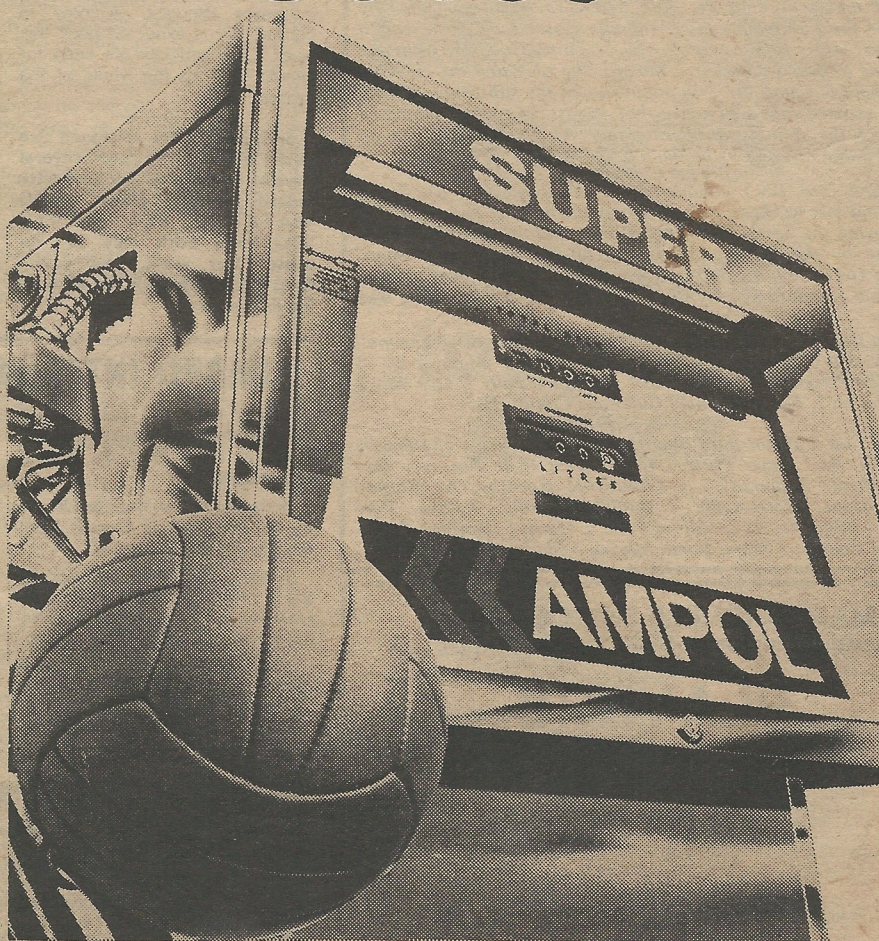
Soccer is now a national as well as international game here in Australia.

If it is to realise the potential we all know it has, there must be a real competition on the field and real co-operation off the field.

I look forward to further improvements in the organisation and the quality of play. I am sure there will be bigger attendances at matches and that will encourage even more support from our friends in the media.

Good luck for the coming season — the third year of the Philips Soccer League of Australia.

Support the company that supports soccer



2 TO 7

Conducted by Val Hokin
and Emmanuel Kanna



Hurstville Zagreb (3rd Div.) is planning a picnic together with a friendly game for Sunday, March 11. The visiting team will be Geelong Croatia and the event will take place at Croatia Culture Association Bona, at 207 Luddenham Road, St. Marys. A new signing for the club is Tom Bobanovic, a goalkeeper who was until recently a second grade player for Croatia and was playing in the early rounds of the Ampol Cup.

Lane Cove (2nd Div.) put the promotion of local juniors high in their list of priorities. Last season 19-year-goalie Kim Best played in the club's third grade, but the young player's ability and dedication have earned him a place in this season's first grade team. He is rated as a very good prospect for the future. The club will be playing trial games against the first division of Sydney Amateur League club Maccabi next weekend and against Sydney University the following weekend.

Baulkham Hills (2nd Div.) would like to congratulate the Marrickville club on their fine organising at Mackey Park for rounds one and two of the Umbro Cup. The club has two new signings: Sweeper J. Eason and midfielder Alan Grant, both previously with West Ryde Rovers. Their Umbro Cup match against Bathurst 75 produced a high class of football despite the blinding wind and rain. First goal of the match came from Tom Crone from a 25 metre drive into the top of the net, then defender Gary Wood received a backpass from Steven Davidson off the goal line and drove the second goal home. Bathurst 75 scored in the last minute of the match to make it 2-1. Goalkeeper Paul Hartley had an exceptional game, mishandling the ball only once.

Campbelltown City (3rd Div.) played a friendly game against Auburn Juniors, the City winning both the first and second grades 3-1. On top of the tremendous talent in the side, Campbelltown has recently signed a midfielder, Ron Hill, an ex-Auburn player.

Greenwich (3rd Div.) has withdrawn from competing in the third division for 1979 season. It is understood that the decision was a result of the club failing to secure the necessary number of players required. The vacant position in the third division will be occupied by Bondi Marine dropping down from the second division — through a voluntary request. This move has been necessary due to the club's inability to comply with the Federation's constitutional requirements for the first grade local player content and for the second grade's under-21 content. The club's proposed third grade side will now be fielded by Queens Park with the grade manager, Charlie Aaron, staying with the youngsters, hoping to return to Bondi for 1980. This team was champion of champions last season and would have been strong contenders in the second division. Bondi will continue to field a team in the current Umbro Cup.

Fairfield Kiev (4th Div.) played their first friendly match for the season against North Bankstown. The result, 1-4, was not very pleasing for Kiev, which is still looking for more new players.

The following were the results of the second and first grade trial games played last weekend: Bonnyrigg Eagles v Paddington Spanish, 2-0 and 3-3; West Holroyd v Haberfield Blue Ducks, 1-2 and 3-2; Kingsford v Melita Eagles, 4-2 and 1-4.

Dee Why (2nd Div.) played a game of missed chances in its Umbro Cup match against Bondi Marine last Sunday at Guildford Park. Down 0-2, DY pulled back with goals from Greg Peterson and, with what had to be the goal of the match, a header by Mark Dower from a right wing cross. Bondi scored a third goal to make it 2-3. Coach, manager and club officials would like to thank the players for a fine effort and tremendous improvement, disregarding the result. Earlier in the day the second grade defeated Bondi 3-0 and lost the third grade game 0-5, playing all games in torrential rain.

Namatjira EC (4th Div.) played against Ashcroft last weekend, with the reserve grade going down 3-4. In the first grade game Ashcroft led 0-2 40 minutes into the first half. With the final score 3-2, the Namatjira goals came from John Lever, Rick Cacir and a classic one from Barry Marshall, who scored from a running shot 25 metres out. Next weekend the club will be playing trials against Fairfield West. The club is on the lookout for a coach for the all-age first and the reserve grade teams competing in the Blacktown Association. Interested persons may contact Wes Savina on 622-5793. The local council will be making improvements to the club's amenities block at Cawarra Park by installing hot showers, hopefully to be completed by the commencement of this season.

Guildford County (2nd Div.) drew with Port Hacking 2-2 in round two of the Umbro Cup. Hacking held the midfield during the first half and scored in the 20th and 23rd minutes. Following closely, in the 27th minute, Jim Williams scored for County from a good direct volley from a cross by Bruce Fiore. Guildford rallied in the second half and dominated most of the play and the Hacking defence held out until the 79th minute when the substitute, Ritchie Gillespie, scored with a 20 metre shot. A fast pace was maintained throughout the match considering the wet conditions. Also an excellent game was had by the man in the middle.

Artarmon (3rd Div.) conducted a very successful five-a-side competition last weekend with 40 teams taking part and about 450 fans enjoying the fiesta. The winning prize and the Citizen watches were won by the Ku-ring-gai district all-age side, Wahroonga, defeating Greenwich 4-2 on penalties. Artarmon were very pleased by the high standard of play in all rounds and the organising was excellent.

Umbro Cup second round results: West Ryde Rovers 1 Yagoona 3, Gladesville Hornsby 1 Lethbridge Park 2, Marrickville 3 Gladesville Ravens 2, Bathurst(75) 1 Baulkham Hills 2, Dee Why 2 Bondi Marine 3, Port Hacking 2 Guildford County 2.

Umbro Cup draw for third round (all games played on Saturday, March 10): At Cromer Park: 1.45pm, West Ryde Rovers v Dee Why; 3.30pm, Bathurst(75) v Gladesville Hornsby. At Mackey Park: 1.45pm, Marrickville v Baulkham Hills; 3.30pm, Port Hacking v Yagoona. At Guildford Park: 1.45pm, Lethbridge Park v Guildford County; 3.30pm, Bondi Marine v Gladesville Ravens.

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CLUB PATROL

Edited by Stephen Dettre

Melita officials and coach RAUL BLANCO are amazed at the dedication HOWARD HADLEY has shown since his release from hospital after a cartilage operation. The Monday after his release he attended training, doing all exercises that didn't involve the leg, and now he has been allowed by the doctor to start some light jogging. Howard has not missed a training session so far, and is an inspiration to the rest of the team.

TONY ECONOMOU is almost certain to re-sign with Melita this week. Tony, who was uncertain of his future, has been training with the side for the past four weeks and is fast approaching peak fitness.

This coming Sunday morning Sutherland have a series of friendly matches arranged against Revesby Workers. Kick off for third grade will be 9am, and all games will be played at Seymour Shaw.

Young Sutherland star STEPHEN MEADES is likely to make a return to training this week after being sidelined with a hamstring injury for the past fortnight.

Auburn are quite pleased about the arrangement they have with the Auburn Council this year which gives the Auburn Soccer Club exclusive rights to Mona Park. For the past two years they have had joint use with other clubs, resulting in over-use of the ground. Now Auburn will be able to allow their junior teams to play on a better field, while themselves also having a better playing surface right through the season.

St. George have several talented youngsters waiting in the wings for their chance to get into the PSL side. The boys, playing in the First Division team, are all under 20. JOCK MORLANDO, an 18-year-old midfielder, is highly regarded, while MICKY RENDELL, who had a few first team outings last year, is back to his pre-injury form.

Bankstown's NEIL WILLIAMS has been placed on the transfer list by the club, and the young 20-year-old midfielder is keen to join any other State League club. Neil is a former Welsh Youth International and has had several good years with the 'Town.

Sutherland are planning a "campaign" this week to encourage JOHN STODDART to remain with the club. John, who signed with the Sharks to help them out through the early stages of the Ampol Cup when they had a player drought, is now in Europe, but is expected back this week. Club officials are keen for him to sign for the whole of the season.

Sutherland have re-signed two young players who spent several months in England trialling with English league clubs. GREG WATKINS and GAVIN WILLIAMS, both only 17, returned last week, and young Greg signed up with the club on Sunday morning.

Ku-ring-gai played Manly in a friendly a week ago, with the first teams drawing 0-0, whilst Manly came out on top 2-1 in second grade.

The Auburn first team is beginning to look like a list of former St. George stars, with no less than five former Saints in the squad. They are WILLIE HAMILTON, BOBBY HOGG, JOHN MacDONALD, KEVIN DOBSON and RAY SUNDSTROM.

RAUL BLANCO is on the lookout for another goalkeeper to bolster his reserve strength in that department. He is happy with UWE BRACKLOW but wants to make sure he is never short of a top goalie in case of injury.

After several weeks of intense treatment and training, WILLIE HAMILTON's niggling knee injury is finally beginning to clear up. This means that there is a fine chance Willie will be fit for the start of the championship season.

Generous Newcastle

Newcastle KB United president Harley Dixon aptly summed up the Prime Minister's Cup clash between Newcastle and Canberra City when he mentioned his club's great hospitality to visiting teams, both on and off the field.

It is doubtful whether any other side in the PSL would give away two "gift" goals in the last five minutes after holding a commanding 2-0 lead for 85 minutes.



Col Curran

Newcastle built up their two-goal advantage in the first half with counters from Ken Boden and Keith Harris.

Wild shooting and the inability of players to seize on opportunities cause a rash of missed chances, yet in this opening session it was pleasing to see untried youngsters Brett Cowburn and Malcolm McClelland show out well in midfield.

Up front the bubbling effervescence of red headed winger

Sutherland managed to get only one friendly match in last Sunday morning when the Sharks' second team lost to Queens Park 1-0. After the game the rest of the day's matches were called off due to the heavy rain.

The postponement of last Sunday's semifinals of the Ampol Cup meant that both VERNON DARVILL and STEVE VERVERIS had a few extra days to recover from slight injuries.

Melita have signed up former APIA and Auburn player BILLY GRIFFITHS. The industrious Billy, who played both as midfielder and striker with APIA, is on loan to Melita for 12 months.

The St. George First Division side is quite a formidable combination, as it has several players from the PSL team holding positions. RUDI GNAVI and NIGEL GROOME dominate in midfield, but are not yet ready to force their way back into the PSL side. Rudi has shaken off his injury problems, but like Nigel, still has

to regain peak fitness before JOE GELEI will consider him.

Ku-ring-gai's ace striker GRAHAM FIRRELL, who was sidelined for several weeks with a leg injury, has begun training with the side. Club officials expect that he will continue training for several weeks and may then be able to gain a place in reserve grade.

Ku-ring-gai have suffered a bitter body blow following the loss of BILLY MILLEN. Billy has decided to leave Australia for good, and it seems he is intent on returning to Ireland. However, first of all he is going to try his luck in the New Zealand National League, and hopes to get a transfer to one of their leading clubs.

First grade Sutherland player MARK HARRINGTON returned to Australia last week after a holiday in Europe. His return means that gradually Sutherland are building up their strength again, and should face the season with a settled side similar to last year's line up.

One of the keen representatives of Dunlop who was pleased to see his company take up the sponsorship of soccer through its Footwear Division is John Murray. He is a long-time official of Bankstown Thistle Club, and is at present very interested in the progress of its junior outfit.

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UMBRO INTERNATIONAL SHIELD

Sydney City and Polonia will play for the Umbro International Shield at Cook Park, St. Marys, on Saturday.

Both teams won their semifinals by the odd goal at Francis Park, Blacktown, last Sunday.

Sydney City beat St. George 2-1 and Polonia defeated University of New South Wales by the same score in the late game.

A full round of Umbro Cup for Second Division clubs was played despite the heavy rain.

Results were: West Ryde Rovers v Yagoona 1-3, Gladesville

Hornsby v Lethbridge 1-2, Marrickville v Gladesville Ravens 3-2, Bathurst(75) v Baulkham Hills 1-2, Dee Why v Bondi 2-3, Port Hacking v Guildford 2-2.

Next Sunday's games are: West Ryde Rovers v Dee Why, Bathurst(75) v Gladesville-Hornsby, Cromer Park; Marrickville v Baulkham Hills, Port Hacking v Yagoona, Mackey Park; Lethbridge v Guildford County, Bondi v Gladesville Ravens, Guildford Park.

Early games kick off at 1.45pm and late games at 3.30pm.

—Charles Spiteri

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AMPOL CUP 1979



TEAMS IN TOP SHAPE FOR HOME RUN

— By Keith Gilmour —

Sunday's Cup semifinals at Wentworth Park will cause more than a few problems for some of the teams involved.

The previous Friday night APIA will start their PSL campaign, against the powerful West Adelaide and they will have to double up 36 hours later.

Sydney City, too, will play on Friday night — and they have to travel to Brisbane, to make things even worse for them.

So it's possible that two fairly tired teams, perhaps depleted by injuries, will meet in the first semifinal on Sunday — and the outcome of their match is heavily dependent on their Friday night adventure.

St. George, too, are under a handicap: they know that a day after their match against Melita they will have to travel to Melbourne to meet Fitzroy.

Coach Gelei is certain to use as many reserves as he possibly dares on Sunday, trying to keep at least a few fresh men for Monday's encounter.

As for the Ampol Cup semifinals — will they be so tasty after being reheated?

They were in the oven for last Sunday, but then Sydney's deluge came down. It is still unlikely that Rosario Rampanti will be the big name on view in the APIA-Sydney City clash.

The outstanding Italian arrived so quietly in Sydney that the general public has heard little of him in two weeks' training with the team.

The APIA move was intentional. He is their drawcard for the PSL first round on Friday night.

Rampanti's reputation is that of a very skilled player, but more importantly he gives a 100 per cent effort.

APIA's likely midfield of Terry Butler, Peter Stone and Ray

Richards or Ken Reed will be absolutely outstanding, but will the forwards be good enough to trouble City?

Andy Scott's seven goals in two matches was exceptional, but naturally he cannot keep moving at anything like that rate.

Sydney City's run of successes under coach Gerry Chaldi point to their ability to upset APIA.

In the past they have been regarded as slow starters at the season's outset, but they are already beginning to set the pace.

That could be because the pressure of the PSL means that the early points could be more vital than ever.

For this match all the mid-fielders. John Stevenson, Ernie Campbell and Murray Barnes have scoring potential enough to rival that of their forwards Joe Watson, Terry Smith and Hilton Silva.

There is no weakness at the back, no matter whether Eddie Thomson is ready to resume or not.

Sydney City have the big guns to win this one, but not without a titanic struggle.

Melita Eagles will gain because the last minute decision on defender Steve Ververis' fitness last Sunday was thumbs down

X-rays have revealed that there is no break in his ankle, and it is now thought that his trouble is a pinched nerve.

Melita coach Raoul Blanco now expects to use Ververis and Bobby McDonald in the centre, while Paul Mikas will get the nod for the midfield vacancy.

St. George receive their bonus in that Phil O'Connor (flu) and Doug Utjesenovic (groin strain) have both benefited from the extra days of layoff.

Saints coach Joe Gelei has realistically paced his team's preparations to the PSL competition, and manager Les Boudacs says that as a result the team is over-trained at this stage.

Martin Coe has received the nod over Mike Fraser for the goalkeeping position, and the backline will be George Harris, Doug Utjesenovic, Angelo Della Picca and Robert O'Shea.

When they last met St. George had a 2-0 advantage at Garside Park.

Both sides are capable of dealing out some exceptionally clever football, and in this regard and at this stage of the year the Eagles are possibly ahead of their opponents.



Mullen, Sydney City.



Barnes, Sydney City.



Turnbull, APIA.



Butler, APIA.



Harris, St. George.



R. O'Shea, St. George.



R. Farrugia, Melita.



McAusland, Melita.

SEMIFINAL TEAMS

SYDNEY CITY

CLARKE
MULLEN
TRENTER
O'CONNOR
SOUNESS
STEVENSON
CAMPBELL
BARNES
WATSON
SMITH
SILVA
THOMSON
PEZZANO

ST. GEORGE

COE
HARRIS
UTJESENOVIC
DELLA PICCA
R. O'SHEA
J. O'SHEA
GROSSE
MATIC
COTTON
O'CONNOR
HENSMAN
FRASER
DUARTE

APIA

WOODHOUSE
SKELLERN
WILSON
ROWDEN
TURNBULL
BUTLER
RAMPANTI
STONE
SCOTT
O'DONNELL
VERNON
REED
RICHARDS
DREWS

MELITA

BRACKLOW
VERVERIS
YAMINE
McDONALD
McPHERSON
J. FARRUGIA
MIKAS
McAUSLAND
D. ALLAN
R. FARRUGIA
JONES
DARVILL

GROUP A

	APIA	Sydney	Avala	Ku-ring-gai	Toongabbie
APIA .....	..	0-0	5-1	3-1	2-1
Sydney City	0-0	..	1-1	3-1	3-1
Avala	1-5	1-1	..	1-1	1-1
Ku-ring-gai	1-3	1-3	1-1	..	0-5
Toongabbie	1-2	1-3	1-1	5-0	..

GROUP B

	Marconi	Sutherland	Monaro	Bankstown	Arncliffe
Marconi .....	..	1-2	1-1	5-0	4-1
Sutherland	2-1	..	4-2	2-2	1-0
Monaro	1-1	2-4	..	2-4	2-2
Bankstown	0-5	2-2	4-2	..	2-1
Arncliffe	1-4	0-1	2-2	1-2	..

GROUP C

	Olympic	Auburn	Yugal	Marrickville	Revesby
Olympic .....	..	2-1	2-1	7-0	1-0
Auburn	1-2	..	1-1	1-1	2-0
Yugal	1-2	1-1	..	2-1	3-1
Marrickville	0-7	1-1	1-2	..	2-1
Revesby	0-1	0-2	1-3	1-2	..

GROUP D

	St. George	Croatia	Manly	Melita	Granville
St. George	1-2	2-1	2-0	5-0
Croatia	2-1	..	3-1	0-2	4-1
Manly	1-2	1-3	..	0-8	2-1
Melita	0-2	2-0	8-0	..	1-0
Granville	0-5	1-4	1-2	0-1	..

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THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 11:

AMPOL CUP SEMIFINALS AT WENTWORTH PARK

APIA v SYDNEY CITY 1.15pm
MELITA v ST. GEORGE 3.00pm

NEXT WEEK

STATE LEAGUE:
FRIDAY, MARCH 16:

Sutherland v Auburn Seymour Shaw

SATURDAY, MARCH 17:

Granville v Bankstown Garside Park

SUNDAY, MARCH 18:

Arncliffe v Ku-ring-gai Seymour Shaw

Avala v Yugal No ground yet

Croatia v Monaro No ground yet

Toongabbie v Melita Gabbie Stadium

Manly v Mv. Olympic Cromer

FIRST DIVISION

SATURDAY, MARCH 17:

Sydney City v Marconi No ground yet

SUNDAY, MARCH 18:

Olympic v Nepean No ground yet

University NSW v Warringah Prince Henry Hospital

Queens Park v Wollongong No ground yet

Polonia v St. George Chopin Park

Blacktown v Belmore Blick Oval

Revesby v North Sydney Milperra

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YEAR THREE IN PSL WILL BE FOR REAL

—By Keith Gilmour—

The 1979 season has been designated "The Year of the Competition" for the Philips Soccer League.

Where does the marketing of soccer stand amongst the other priorities of the clubs and the League itself?

Leaving aside the occasional bonus for an extra point for four goal or more margins, each club on average can collect two points per game.

And so the majority of clubs cannot rely on the additional crowds that so often flock to back the regular winner.

They must next depend upon the class of the football they play, the qualities of their coach and players, their standard of management and the ground facilities that they command.

To this must be added promotion and also sponsorship.

If any club doubts the latter point they should think again.

Firstly, the Philips League itself would not have come into existence except for the backing of Philips Industries.

And an individual club which has big business support has a sound advantage.

Without it soccer as a game would not compete with Australian Rules, rugby league, tennis and cricket.

The media must be tied into this bundle; a lusty television arm in particular is one of the greatest possible influences in sport today, although press and radio remain strong partners.

Small staff

The Philips League itself appears to be well bogged down on its apparent inability to have an administrator as well as a promoter on the staff.

One manager and a typist-secretary, no matter how competent, are not enough to send the code places in Australia today.

There is insufficient time to make friends where it really counts.

And what are the clubs doing to widen their scope in this vital area?

Marconi, St. George and Sydney City have emerged as the 1979 leaders.

Livio Sartoretto, Alan Barton and John Warren are the promotion managers for the respective clubs.

Sartoretto, the personable, young former treasurer of Marconi, is feeling his way.

Barton is there to sell soccer in St. George to the public, companies, schools and juniors.

He will sell "Barton" Stadium advertising, program and journal space as well.

John Warren is setting the backdrop required to screen City as a widely based club — no small task indeed.

Sydney Olympic and APIA are not so far advanced.

Newcastle, working through a promotions committee headed by NBN3 sportscaster David Fordham, has a superb organisation — club shop, media advertising allocations, home game planning one month in advance, etc.

Example

In reaching the population generally they have no peers to date.

In fact, they should co-operate with the PSL and the State Federation in issuing a booklet setting out their general systems, which would benefit city and country clubs throughout the nation.

Canberra City has been promotion-minded, and Adelaide City and West Adelaide have also done their share.

Brisbane City have again gained sponsorship, but the Lions have to make up ground following the loss of Kentucky Fried's support.

What of the Melbourne clubs?

South Melbourne merchandise their football by improvements to the team and facilities. They made one promotional appointment that did not last, and appear too inward-looking to date.

Fitzroy have done even less, and Footscray need more than its present sponsorship backing to make a wider impact or draw satisfactory attendances.

The challenge of the year is then for top results, and quality in play and ground facilities.

But the club that overlooks marketing and promotion in 1979 must surely be making a rod for its own back.

1977

	Pts.
1. Easts Hakoah	37
2. Marconi	37
3. Fitzroy	32
4. Adelaide City	31
5. West. Suburbs	29
6. St. George	28
7. West Adelaide	26
8. Footscray	24
9. Bris. Lions	23
10. Bris. City	22
11. Sth. Melbourne	22
12. Olympic	21
13. Canberra	17
14. Mooroolbark	15



Philips' chief Herman Huyer

1978

	Pts.
1. West Adelaide	36
2. Easts Hakoah	35
3. Sth. Melbourne	32
4. Marconi	30
5. Fitzroy	26
6. Brisb. Lions	26
7. St. George	25
8. Olympic	25
9. West. Suburbs	24
10. Adelaide City	24
11. Newcastle	22
12. Footscray	22
13. Canberra	20
14. Brisb. City	17

SPECIAL



REVIEW

Support sought

Syd. City

The old horticultural adage will soon be put to the test: what's a rose under a new name?

Hakoah's bold decision to drop the old tag and seek a more neutral and more populous support deserves success but is far from certain to earn it.

For one thing, the team to do the trick exists, based almost entirely on the squad which did so well last year.

Coach Gerry Chaldi had to carry out only minor plastic surgery to update the successful 1978 version and send his troops into yet another battle. Fullback Bruce is the only newcomer plus three unknown young Brazilians acquired in the off-season; Bruce has already settled in well but the Latin Americans may take time to survive the transplant shock.

Two of Sydney City's stalwarts, Thomson and Mullen, have missed most or all the Cup matches — but their replacements, Trenter, Kershaw and Bruce, have plugged the gap well.

There are likely to be no changes in midfield where the dynamic Stevenson and busy Souness make a fine trio with



Todd Clarke

Barnes. This is the team's engine room and probably one of the best in the country on whose performance their success depends.

Watkins, Smith, Campbell and Silva form a powerful quartet; if Souness is used at the back, Campbell can effectively drop into the second wave.

It would come as a very major surprise if they didn't finish very close to the top once again.

Squad: Clarke, Pezzano, Mullen, Kershaw, O'Connor, Thomson, Bruce, Mowbray, Trenter, Souness, Fonseca, Mozart, Stevenson, Watson, Campbell, Smith, Barnes, A. Silva, M. Silva. **Coach:** Gerry Chaldi.

OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF PHILIPS SOCCER LEAGUE



THIS WEEK

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

APIA v West Adelaide 8pm, Marconi Stadium
Brisbane Lions v Sydney City 8pm, Perry Park

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Sydney Olympic v Footscray 3pm, Barton Stadium

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Canberra v Marconi 2.30pm, Bruce Stadium
N'castle v Sth. Melb. 2.30pm, Inter. Sports Centre
Adel. City v Bris. City 2.30pm, Hindmarsh Stadium

MONDAY, MARCH 12

Fitzroy v St. George 3pm, Olympic Park

NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Sth. Melb. v Sydney Olympic 3pm, Middle Park
St. George v Canberra City 3pm, Barton Stadium
Footscray v Fitzroy 3pm, Olympic Park
Marconi v Brisbane Lions 3pm, Marconi Stadium
Sydney City v Adelaide City 3pm, Wentworth Park
West. Adel. v N'castle 2.30pm, Hindmarsh Stadium
Brisbane City v APIA 3pm, Perry Park

Depth lacking

Marconi

Marconi will have to sort out a few more internal problems before they can properly forget about the earthquakes and traumas which erupted during 1978; their seismograph is still not fully at rest.

The departure of some players will also make a difference: gone are Rooney, Richards and O'Leary, weakening, most of all, the once formidable Marconi midfield.

Henderson, generously dubbed as Canberra's "Beckenbauer", should be a big asset but it's probably too ambitious an idea to use him in midfield instead of defence.

So Marconi will have to find a third midfielder to partner the aggressive Byrne and the elegant Vieri; probably a Rooney-type water-carrier would be ideal. Maybe Jankovics.

A surprising feature of Marconi is their lack of depth: only four serious candidates; for example, for the three striking positions.

Admittedly, all three — Jankovics, Sharne, Mariani and newcomer Krncevic — are talent-



Paul Degney

ed youngsters but maybe an old head would have been useful among so much youthful ebullience.

Jankovics, after an injury-ridden 1978, should again hit top form especially if used on the right flank where his speed and dash can be best utilised.

This year promises to be quieter on the outset and our hunch is that the team will take a backseat in the PSL for at least one season.

Squad: Maher, Brogan, Prskalo, Russell, Henderson, Degney, Byrne, Selva, Vieri, Lindsay, Mariani, Jankovics, Sharne, Williams, Jones, Krncevic. **Coach:** Les Scheinfeld.

Time is needed

St. George

Under a new coach, in a smart new stadium, with some seven new players in their ranks, St. George is bound to bounce back this year — or there will be plenty of questions asked.

The talent is certainly there, suggesting a possible rebirth, maybe in the second half of the season.

In the defence the Saints have many — perhaps too many — players but the ideal formation has yet to emerge: Utjesenovic and newcomer Della Picca from Argentina look certain to form a grand partnership.

Captain Harris, Grosse, Terry, Holmik and two O'Shea's, Mike and Robert, could compete for the other two berths.

In the Cup games the midfield was the Saints' Achilles heel and this has to be rectified before they can start dreaming about success.

The robust Grosse may switch there from defence and partner two others.

Gelei has quite a few at his disposal: the elegant Gnani, the busy newcomer Matic, the solid John O'Shea, the precocious talent of



Phil O'Connor

Kay (now 16) or two other new signings, Englishman Groome and ex-Marrickville Olympic youngster Katholos. Don't be surprised if youth gets the nod.

Five strikers vie for the three posts and international O'Connor and Cotton are likely to take two, leaving Duarte, Hensman, Barton and Morgan to argue about the third. Perhaps Duarte is the likeliest lad.

Squad: Coe, Fraser, Harris, Utjesenovic, Della Picca, Terry, Holmik, Grosse, M. O'Shea, R. O'Shea, Matic, Kay, Groome, Katholos, J. O'Shea, Barton, Hensman, Duarte, Cotton, O'Connor, Morgan. **Coach:** Joe Gelei.

Chase continues

Olympic

Will their 19th season in top company finally bring a change in fortune for Olympic (nee Pan Hellenic), having chased in vain even a small title or cup medal since 1961?

The potential giants of Sydney soccer, whose support could be in five-figure brackets if only they produced a winning team, appear to have a solid squad for 1979 — solid but perhaps not classy enough.

If they had two or three really outstanding, playmaker personalities, coach Joe Marston's problems would surely diminish.

Olympic seems to have too many average players of roughly equal standard; no obvious weak spots but no apparent strengths either.

In the defence Bell's presence will bring about a welcome improvement but he would be even more effective if the tall McIntosh was kept back instead of trying to convert him into a striker just because of his height.

Much will depend on the effectiveness of the Olympic midfield: Laing and Jamieson could be



Peter Raskopoulos

more than useful — if only they had a third partner.

The talented youngster Raskopoulos, fast developing into a top player and perhaps the best player of the ball in Sydney, Ainslie could do the trick.

The arrival of Eaton has only lessened Olympic's attacking problems, without fully solving them.

This sharp goalgetter will certainly win his share during the season but he needs support or, at least, the divided attention of rival defenders.

Squad: Meier, G. Allan, Wilson, Bell, McIntosh, Gibson, Cross, Botham, Laing, Raskopoulos, Jamieson, Ainslie, Cotton, Eaton, Palmer, Luckett. **Coach:** Joe Marston.

Comeback plans

APIA

Not many clubs make a comeback from purgatory but APIA has done it even if in a roundabout way via Western Suburbs.

Yet the true battle begins only now: trying to recapture their once formidable and vocal support.

The arrival of Italian star Rampanti, the signing of Melbourne giant Reed and veteran Richards and the new-found super sharpness of lanky striker Scott may add new dimensions to the team.

Rampanti is also expected to do a bit more than that: to appeal to the simmering patriotism of those former APIA fans who in the past two years walked away from the wreck.

The purely Western Suburbs-based defence, led by Wilson, will be probably solid enough to thwart most attacks; the three talented youngsters, Woodhouse, Skellern and Rowden, should make the transition from promising juniors to mature seniors this year.

Then there is the brilliant Stone, the still elusive Butler and the always effective Vernon and O'Donnell to fill the gaps.



Ian Rowden

It will be interesting to see how long APIA's experiment of playing at Wentworth Park will last.

But perhaps APIA is right; we will see. If the adventure backfires, they can always beat a hasty retreat into "Little Italy".

Given the normal breaks and patience, Adam is likely to take APIA pretty close to the top and, in the process, gradually lure back the fans who so hastily abandoned a tottering ship.

Squad: Woodhouse, Lachowicz, Skellern, Wilson, Turnbull, Rowden, Carruthers, Stone, Butler, Reed, Drews, Scott, O'Donnell, Montgomery, Richards, Vernon, Samuels, Ankudinoff, Doyle. **Coach:** Jim Adam.

PHILIPS LEAGUE PREVIEW

Power and glory

Class must tell

Up to strikers

Westad

Philips League champions West Adelaide, faced with the daunting task of retaining their title, made their 1979 intentions crystal clear by winning the SA Ampol Cup last week.

The success was a personal triumph for returning coach Tom Forde who led West to an imposing list of honors under their former WA Hellas banner.

Regardless of the probable acquisition of new players, West have an existing squad of immense depth, a commodity lacking last season.

Brilliant youngster Martyn Crook, who succeeded the now retired Sam Service as West's first choice goalkeeper last year, is set to further press his valid claims for national team selection.

Versatile Vic Bozanic, big "Bazza" Reynolds and Peter Tymczyszyn will vie for the fullback places, while former Greek international Con Kambas and Socceroo David Jones will be the central defenders.

West's mid-field responsibilities will be shared by "Mr. Perpetual Motion", Peter Boyle, captain Neil McGachey, who is now fit and sharp and the greatly improved Gordon McCulloch.



David Jones

Honeyman, mainly a mid-fielder last year, may be used up front to partner Ian McGregor, Graham Norris and David Pillans.

New signing from Adelaide Polonia, Garie Dooley, is an elegant midfielder.

Youngsters John Batchelor, George Koulianos, Nick Pantzaras, Steve Atsalas and goalkeeper Steve Stylianou seem destined for substitute duties, but all have enormous potential.

Squad: Crook, Bozanic, Reynolds, McGachey, Kambas, Jones, Boyle, McCulloch, Norris, Honeyman, McGregor, Pillans, Tymczyszyn, Dooley, Batchelor, Koulianos, Atsalas, Pantzaras, Zervas, Stylianou. **Coach:** Tom Forde.

Adel. City

Adelaide City manager-coach Rale Rasic, speaking from his luxurious City club office rooms, sounded confident that he would fulfil all the promises that he had made when he first accepted his appointment.

The Adelaide City PSL squad started training under Rasic's guidance on January 3. The first six weeks of training he mainly concentrated on physical conditioning.

The 21-player squad has been training five nights a week since.

Apart from last season's regular squad, City have made three major signings: Glenn Dods, 22, a defender, New Zealand international from the Mt. Wellington Club on a free transfer; Bobby Russell from Sydney Croatia, also a defender bought for \$6000 and one of the best wingers in Australia; and Chris Kent, bought from South Melbourne for \$6000.

On the field, Peter Marshall, who last year showed top form in goals, will be supported in defence by big 6'4" "Jimbo" Muir, a stopper who has now settled the differences with his Scottish club Dumbarton and is with Adelaide City to stay.



Gary Marocchi

In the midfield there will be the skills of Agenor Muniz and, of course, Johnny Perin who has been one of the best midfielders in Australia for a long time. Supporting them are likely to be Sergio Melta and John Besir.

Up front, the spearhead will be the goalscoring king Dixie Deans, the "gentle giant" Robert Marwe, hard working young star Brian Northcote, Chris Kent and John Nyskohus currently in top form.

The reserve 'keeper is promising 18-year-old Rick Migliaccio.

Squad: Marshall, Migliaccio, Russell, Dods, Bugsy Nyskohus, Melta, Perin, Muir, Besir, Muniz, Northcote, Deans, Kent, John Nyskohus, Marwe. **Coach:** Rale Rasic.

Canberra

Canberra City officials are hoping for a record crowd when Canberra kicks off in the 1979 PSL season against Marconi.

Canberra v Marconi matches of the past have always been exciting, skilful displays and this vital inaugural match should be no exception.

With most of the overseas players now in the capital, coach Vic Fernandez is able to settle on the likely squad.

Harry Williams is still recovering from a groin injury and is an unlikely starter for the early matches, while Mike Smith, a defensive midfielder, has yet to gain match fitness.

The re-signing of Danny Moulis and Steven Hogg should strengthen Canberra's defensive arsenal and they will surely be pressing the likes of Keni Kawalleve, Luis Salgado and Phil Reis for inclusion in the first team.

With a victory over South Melbourne, and a draw with Brisbane City under his belt, Fernandez can gain confidence from the fact that his hard labour is bearing fruit.

However, the form of the team slumped against Brisbane City and the team must reproduce its "South Melbourne" for consistency if it is to be challenging



Harry Williams

the leaders rather than mortgaging a precarious position on the lower rungs of the PSL ladder.

There is no doubt that the depth of talent in the squad has been enhanced while the club premises are now making a good profit.

If the forward line can shake off its hitherto lacklustre image (and the recent form of Bailey, Byrne and Arquero is promising) and the team can develop a taste for winning from the start instead of performing Herculean feats of second-half heroism, then the future for the Canberra City team this year is sure to be more rosy.

Squad: Hoszowski, Moulis, Stark, Kawalleve, Salgado, Farrell, Hogg, Gruicic, Davies, Lustica, Reis, Arquero, Byrne, Talevski, Stoddart. **Coach:** Vic Fernandez.

Culling problem

Defence is tops

Not last again

Newcastle

The onerous task of constantly cajoling 22 players to fight for 11 first team places rests heavily on the shoulders of Newcastle manager Alan Vest this season.

Four new players have arrived from overseas, with goalkeeper Jim Preston, ex-Queens Park in Scotland, joining Ian Sneddon, Graham Hays and David Jones.

A question mark naturally still stands against the ability of Jones and Sneddon to fit into the PSL; their chance will undoubtedly come.

Striker Graham Hays has already shown his ability, but he must learn to curb his retaliatory habits, which will earn him the wrath of most PSL referees or become a definite liability to his team mates.

Of the local youngsters, Peter Tredinnick and Joe Senkalski will be fighting for first team places, while McClelland and Cowburn are talented players with a first class soccer future ahead of them if they continue to learn and progress in maturity and ability.

Former West Wallsend defender John Sneddon proved himself to be a most capable central de-



Peter Tredinnick

fender in a trial fixture against the first team squad last week.

Another under-19 Australian representative squad member in the Newcastle lineup is Michael Boogard, a powerfully built youngster.

Manager Alan Vest has the responsibility heaped on him to field an attractive attacking unit, firm in defence but with a flair to capture the imagination of the Newcastle public.

Squad: Dando, Willis, Summerscales, Drinkwater, Curran, McClelland, Mason, Cowburn, Hays, Boden, Tredinnick, Preston, Sneddon, Jones, Senkalski, Boogard. **Coach:** Alan Vest.

Br. Lions

Lions' new coach Eddie Spearritt has introduced an interesting approach to a major problem in Australian soccer: Spearritt, as player coach, aided and abetted by other player coaches Jim Hermiston and Roddy McKenzie, has named a squad of 20 players for PSL.

This allows for specialised coaching to take place in smaller groups and yet allows for close fraternisation and recognition of the younger players with the experienced members of the squad.

Wilson, Ogden, McGregor, Sleight, Lowe and Burns are still in their teens and if the coaching plan succeeds they will benefit immensely.

Lowndes, Lawrie, Bennett, Hermiston and Niven will make up a backline as good as most in the league. If Lions appear weak in this area for a season's campaign it should be remembered that both Amos and Spearritt are tried and tested fullbacks.

These two will play in midfield and up front Craig Wallace has



Jim Hermiston

obviously been procured with a view of making up a partnership with Barrie Fairbrother.

The team begins to take shape and with an obvious "English" look it would not surprise to see a wily performer like Spearritt adopt the English philosophy in total: "When at home attack all-out, when away do not lose." This can be tactically achieved by using two experienced players who can play as old fashioned wingers or flank mid-fielders.

Squad: Lowndes, McKenzie, Scanlan, Lawrie, Bennett, Hermiston, Niven, Amos, Spearritt, Wilson, Ogden, Hughes, Wallace, Fairbrother, Laslo, McGregor, Sleight, Lowe, Ontong, Burns. **Coach:** Eddie Spearritt.

Br. City

The Philips Cup holders start season '79 with virtually the same squad as 1978. This leaves the observant critic in a quandry, for, despite the euphoric days of trophy annexation at season's end it has to be remembered the team were wooden spooners in the league campaign.

In the football operation changes have been made, but the signings of Kevin Lowe, George Potter and Charlie Runje have been offset by the loss of Willie Connor and Ian Johnson from the squad.

George Potter will fit into the backline at either sweeper or left back, Steve Perry accommodating the alternate. The midfield trio of Pimblett, Echiverria and Gaffney will be given another chance despite their lack of consistency last season, and up front Lowe will be expected to supply the ammunition for the strong running Kelso and Caldwell.

This line up would give the fanatical Italian support a team they would probably pick



Steve Perry

themselves, and there is no doubt that on its day they could give any team in Philips League a run for their money.

There are people around who feel City need a new face, a new brain, in the middle and it could be before very long George Potter will be asked to give the position a try.

Gaffney also shows a love for getting in and around penalty boxes, a talent that doesn't get free rein in his present midfield role.

Squad: Wishart, Rathmell, Rattliffe, Potter, Perry, Lavelle, Kibbey, Tokesi, Echiverria, Pimblett, Gaffney, Runje, Caldwell, Kelso, Coyne, Lowe. **Coach:** Nereo Sactich.

Major facelift

Backbone stays

Fittest outfit

Footscray

President Tony Kovac reports that this year's activity has transcended any which Footscray City have experienced in the past.

With seven new players signed on so far, it must be conducive to an optimistic attitude this season.

Jim Kriaris has found it imperative that he retire with a back injury under doctors' orders, so he has been appointed team manager to the Philips League team.

Three new Yugoslav players are Radoslav Jovicic, a sweeper from Red Star; Zoran Todorovic, a midfielder who has come up through Red Star juniors to senior ranks; and Slobodan Jovanovic, a middle striker who was with OS Belgrade.

Three players from England include Steve Potter, who has played 114 games in goal for Swansea City; Steve Carpenter, a midfielder from First Division side Norwich City; and Paul Hayne, a right back who has played during the past two years with a West German Second Division Club.

The rest of the squad are all well-known names in Andrija Ristic, Jim Kondarios, Zorian Ilioski, Zaravko Lujic, Joe



Joe Piciaone

Piciaone, Joe Palinkas and Mendo Ristovski.

No mention has been made of Rujevic or Kazi, whilst I believe Dennis Boland, goalkeeper for several years, is on the transfer list.

Always one of the most stylish teams in Australia, Footscray, with its new, strong Yugoslav infusion of European talent, is certain to be among the most attractive teams to watch in action — hopefully even in front of their fastidious supporters.

Squad: Potter, Hayne, Kondarios, Jovicic, Todorovic, Carpenter, Jovanovic, Ristic, Ilioski, Lujic, Piciaone, Ristovski, Palinkas. **Coach:** Cedo Ristovski.

Fitzroy

Fitzroy United have applied for a change of name to Heidelberg United this year, but up to the time of going to press there is little chance of approval until 1980.

However, the move from Fitzroy to Heidelberg is bound to take time, and all Melbourne fixtures will be at Olympic Park No. 1 Oval for both Fitzroy and Footscray this year.

The goalkeeping chores have so far been shared between Scott, Jim Marner and young Jeff Olver, cleared from State League club Albion Rovers (Melb.).

Fitzroy should be able to control the midfield with Jimmy Rooney and Kenny Taylor combining.

The squad of 18 also includes Arthur McMillan, Bob Provan, Jim Tansey, Pat Bannon, James Campbell, Andy Bozikas, Gary Cole, Branko Buljevic, Jim O'Reilly, Mike Micevski and new player from Collingwood City in Jim Sahinias.

Three of the younger brigade in Theo Selemidis, Charlie Yankos and George Pavlidis can only keep on improving, so keep your eyes on them.



Jim Tansey

The arrival of Jimmy Rooney is quite certain to add a touch of class to their busy midfield; Rooney, at top level, still seems to have a few more good seasons left in him.

This could be the year when Gary Cole also earns stardom; this tall, bustling, non-stop striker can be a sensation if given the sort of support front-runners are entitled to.

Squad: Marner, Olver, Provan, McMillan, P. Bannon, Tansey, Campbell, Bozikas, Cole, Buljevic, Micevski, O'Reilly, Rooney, Taylor, Sahinias, Selemidis, Yankos, Pavlidis. **Coach:** John Margaritis.

Sth. Melb.

The South Melbourne squad would have to be the fittest soccer side in Melbourne as Dave Maclaren seems to be forever out with the boys.

Two new players have arrived from the English Midlands in Ken Drakeford, ex-Wolverhampton reserves midfielder, and Tony Turner, a forward from Hedgesford Town.

South have two clever goalkeepers on their books in ex-Socceroo Jack Reilly and the up-and-coming Peter Laumets.

John Hansen had returned to Scandinavia, although I have heard that he is keen to come back to Australia for good.

The balance of the team seems to be well known to all, with Frank Munro, Stuart Baxter, Chris Kalafitidis, Mike Pye, Sammy Wright, Duncan Cummings, Alun Evans and George Campbell all experienced players Dave Maclaren will be relying on.

George Christopolous and Alan Davidson have come along well in the Young Socceroos, so this experience will blend with ease into a well balanced side.

South Melbourne have also taken giant strides towards a professional set-up, eventually hop-



Theo Selemidis

ing to have only fulltime players on their staff.

It will be interesting to see how the brilliant schemer Evans and that Puck-like winger Campbell shape up.

Campbell, after his leg fracture, may take a bit of time to settle down again — but if he does, Maclaren's problems certainly diminish.

Cummings, too, should be increasingly prominent now that he has the sort of talent around him that all young strikers dream about.

Squad: Reilly, Laumets, Munro, Baxter, Kalafitidis, Pye, Wright, Cummings, Evans, Campbell, Christopolous, Davidson. **Coach:** David Maclaren.

MUDDLE OPENS SEASON

The start of the PSL season could not have been more confusing had it been planned that way.

The seven matches of the first round are spread over four nights and days.

And all this because the PSL and the NSW Federation could not agree on fixture dates since last October...

The situation now is that

LORD MAYOR KICKS OFF

Sydney's Lord Mayor Nelson Meers will officially launch Sydney City Soccer Club into orbit at a function at Sydney Town Hall on Thursday, March 15.

It follows hard upon the heels of the announcement of the club's double-barrelled sponsorship.

Without being prepared to quote explicit figures, Sydney City categorically claim their sponsorship deal as the biggest ever in the code.

This would have to put it in the \$75,000 class.

The major support — at a big increase over the 1978 grant — stems again from Presto — the highly successful smallgoods arm of the giant Petersville food group.

Presto helped Sydney City's predecessor Easts-Hakoah

APIA and Sydney City will have to play two matches in three days while St. George must play two in two days...

And if the Ampol Cup final is played next week Wednesday, the already crowded schedule becomes farcical for at least one,

through their early days in the Philips League, and continued support will boost the club in their efforts to add crowd appeal to an excellent team that is well worth following.

Joint-sponsor is City Ford, Australia's largest Ford Motor Company dealers.

City Ford, who also sponsor Eastern Suburbs Rugby League Club, assisted Sydney Olympic Soccer Club for one season also.

In a splendid gesture, City Ford have provided a top of the line \$8500 Cortina.

Every supporter attending the club's home games stands the chance to win this magnificent prize.

Individual "Match of the Day" sponsors will also be coming Wentworth Park way.

—K.G.

maybe two finalists: four games in eight or nine days.

To make things even more sordid, PSL clubs now have to suffer financially because of this muddle.

APIA, forced to play on Friday night, must pay West Adelaide players compensation for a day's lost wages — and Fitzroy will have to do the same for St. George on Monday.

Monday is a holiday in Melbourne — but no in Sydney so Fitzroy (as APIA) must fork

out about \$600 or so in compensation — though they were innocent parties.

Olympic, too, suffer: compelled to play on Saturday in order not to clash with the Ampol semifinals, they are certain to lose at least 2000 spectators they would have had on Sunday.

It's a pity that the two governing bodies are still so antagonistic towards one another.

Because of it, not only the clubs but the game as a whole also suffers.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Congratulations! Your article "Skill or Perish" in the last issue of SW was an honest appraisal of the malady that besets Australian soccer. What Attila Abonyi and Raul Blanco have pointed out is only a confirmation of what was already voiced years ago by such thinkers as Palgar, Cambal, Venglos and Dettmar Cramer.

The Australian soccer player cannot possess the basic skills of his European or South American counterpart because he never played the game with a tennis ball, the childhood companion of every good player.

The staggering number of junior teams in Sydney is not due to the love of the game but to the reduced risk of injury in soccer, as opposed to that in rugby.

So mother prefers the round ball to the elliptic one.

While the boy plays soccer his father visualises him as a "football" player who needs only stamina and speed. Ball control with the feet? What for? Surely not for rushing headlong into a wall of players.

Whenever the lack of quality among junior players is mentioned, the administrators exclaim with almost orgasmic urgency: "But look how many teams we have!"

The German mathematician C. F. Gauss regards this kind of numbers game as a "meaningless precision in numerical studies..."

Imre Panda, Publicity Officer, St. Ives Soccer Club.

The comments made by Attila Abonyi and Raul Balco in your article "Skill or Perish is our choice" are painfully true.

Artistic skills in Australian soccer just do not exist. We still persist with the "kick and rush" game; a style that might be exciting to watch at times but will never bring us success in the hard professional world of international soccer.

Our young players are either taught skills at too late a stage or are never taught them at all.

I myself played soccer between the ages of seven and 18 and I wasn't taught any valuable skills until the age of 15.

In my view that was 10 years too late.

The problem of having too many clubs and associations is surely stunting the code's growth.

Different clubs and associations are pursuing different aims and objectives.

If the number of associations could be reduced through amalgamation then it would be easier for the ASF to set a common objective for all associations to aim for.

If this could be achieved then it would no longer be an embarrassment when Australian teams play European or South American teams.

Blane Stonley, West Pymble.

The difficulty of getting PSL matches to be televised in 1979 because of their failure to rate satisfactorily last year in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane is bad news for the long term prospects of the PSL.

Everybody with an ounce of sense knows that the very survival and success of the PSL depends mainly on its ability to gain widespread acceptance in the main centres — Sydney and Melbourne.

No matter how well the PSL goes in places like Newcastle or Canberra it cannot survive without success in Sydney and Melbourne.

The reasons for the failure of the PSL to gain a reasonable television audience in Sydney and Melbourne are many and varied, but one which must be a major contributor is the clubs that represent these two cities and the very poor image that senior club soccer has in these cities.

Unlike Canberra and Newcastle, whose PSL clubs have managed to capture the imagination and acceptance of all the soccer interested public in those cities, the Sydney and Melbourne PSL clubs in the eyes of the soccer minded (and there are such people) are representing only certain ethnic minority groups, mainly Greek or Italian.

Until a club in Sydney and Melbourne emerges in the PSL with a broadly based makeup that can capture the imagination of a wide cross-section of the soccer minded public, the PSL in these key cities will just continue to flounder along as a thinly disguised forum for ethnic minority groups and nobody else.

Soccer Fan, Sydney. (Name withheld at writer's request.)

—P. Kunz

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Thursday, March 8: Movie — 8pm.

Friday, March 9: LEE GALLAGHER SHOWBAND — 8pm. Friday Bonanza — 9.30pm. Friday Laugh-in with Jack O'Leary.

Saturday, March 10: SUPPORTERS' NIGHT — 7.30pm, with JOHNNY GREDDULA and his TV co-stars.

Sunday, March 11: Disco — 7.30pm.

Wednesday, March 14: Disco — 7.30pm.

A.P.I.A. SOCCER CLUB

38-42 Frazer St., Leichhardt
Telephone: 82-0187



Friday, March 9: Disco, 8pm G/F. Also: Ali Kabah and Enrico, fire eating, sword swallowing act.

Saturday, March 10: Disco, 8pm.

Sunday, March 11: Reg Norton, vocal-variety artist, with the APIA Ballet.

Monday, March 12: English movie.

Tuesday, March 13: Disco, 8pm.

WESTERN SUBURBS SOCCER CLUB

William St., Five Dock
Telephone: 713-8672



Thursday, March 8: Disco Nite.

Friday, March 9: Ray Williams Quartet — Social Dance.

Saturday, March 10: Stan Penrose — comedy and instrumental act.

Sunday, March 11: Afternoon: Movie — with Robert Shaw, Jacqueline Bisset and Nick Nulty. Evening: Freddy Paris — international vocal star.

CANBERRA

A successful Press Night was held at the Canberra City Soccer Club last Wednesday. Present were players, officials, members of the soccer press plus representatives of the Canberra Times newspaper, the ABC and local radio stations 2CA, 2CC and 2XX. During the night guests were presented with a media guide which is a compendium of information concerning the club and its players. The president of Canberra City, Charles Perkins, praised the local media for its support of the team, stressing that interest in the club transcended code loyalties and was an expression of Territorian civic pride. At the function it was announced that the King Gee company will sponsor Canberra's first match against Marconi on March 11.

Recent arrivals from Britain Isaac Farrell, George Bailey and Mike Smith still have difficulty in adjusting to the local heatwave weather conditions. No doubt they will be looking forward to the Canberra winter with relish, when they will have the "pleasure" of playing in temperatures of 8°C or less.

The Canberra City Kids squad completed its series of primary school visits last Friday. In all, 18 schools were covered in the tours since last November, with 13 City players participating. This promotional and coaching exercise has been a great success.

—P. Kunz

Smalltalk

It's so refreshing to see broadmindedness creep into our game, especially at the administrative level.

For years the various associations and federations have been extremely touchy about the gentlest criticism or slightest hint of lambast.

But it's all changing now. In the match program which the NSW Federation produces (no date and issue number but presumably around February 24) a certain Ian Holmes cheerfully attacks the NSW Federation's wish to control its own under 14-16 competitions.

Adjectives such as "false pretense" and "deliberately misled" adorn his tirade.

Just as strange is the program's admission that "not a single club bothered to phone us their likely teams for the quarterfinals..." while the reporter was patiently waiting from "9pm to 1am every Sunday" (could that be 9am to 1pm?).

Maybe, instead of waiting, it would have been better to phone the clubs...

You may have wondered why last week you read in SW reference to a French-style uniform provided for the referees by Dunlop and not the "World Cup style", as contained in the handout.

It's simple: it's not the World Cup style. As usual, somebody who wasn't familiar with the subject was asked by Dunlop to advise them on the design — and gave the wrong information.

The Dunlop uniform — an extremely elegant one — is all black: in Europe French referees wear this.

In the World Cup the referees had black shirts with white collars and white stripes in their stockings.

A small thing, you could say — but another sad example that even in such relatively simple and unimportant things we just can't do things right.

Rudi Gutendorf would like to take the Socceroos to at least one, preferably more, annual Asian Cup tournaments — and I hope he succeeds.

But not being members of the Asian Confederation, he might have problems.

A few years ago I strongly lobbied and campaigned against Australia's continued membership in the Oceania Confederation and urged the ASF to quit there and join Asia.

We quit alright — but the Asians refused our membership application. Since then, the ASF has not renewed its bid for a membership and is likely to rejoin Oceania.

The argument says that in Oceania we can play a "leading role" (that is, leading New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea) and get a FIFA vice-presidency for the Oceania president, presumably Sir Arthur George.

And, with that, we will be able to have our voice heard in FIFA circles...

Of course, this is largely nonsense. FIFA now has eight vice-presidents and 12 executive members; one more or less wouldn't tip many scales.

Apart from Sir Arthur attending FIFA executive meetings, what advantages would there be for us — and in what specific terms could FIFA help Australian soccer solve its problems?

On the other hand, the Asian Confederation has 33 members and carries a pretty big stick; it also organises many annual tournaments which would then be open to our national team.

I still doubt if, through frequent contact with NZ, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, we will progress very much, if anything.

In fact, all four should join Asia together. Is it worth maintaining the illusion of a separate confederation for four countries? Or five, if you want to include Taiwan — with whom nobody wants to play anyway?

A large oil company (not Ampol, of course) and an afternoon newspaper added to the proliferation of sporting awards last week by holding a glittering function at a leading hotel.

Everybody was there, as the saying goes; everybody who matters — and also some who didn't matter.

Or so it seems. All the top brass of the ASF was invited and scattered around the hall.

Most unfortunately, Sir Arthur George was seated at the rear, a long way from the main table.

Then, to add oil to the fire — in the welcoming speeches no mention was made of soccer's presence.

But since they also ignored Ken Booth, NSW Minister for Sport, I guess soccer was in good company.

Peter Van Rijn, masseur of the Socceroos for the last 10 years, rang this week making a strong attack — or counter-attack — against Gutendorf.

Peter, obviously still under the effects of the clashes in Paraguay, listed half a dozen incidents where Gutendorf had allegedly behaved offensively; yelling, recriminating and making "unreasonable demands" for the masseur's services.

We didn't check these claims — and have no intention of doing so. In fact, we believe them.

Gutendorf, though he may put a different interpretation on each of the episodes, is likely to admit them all.

As he readily concedes, he is no diplomat but a professional coach.

The interesting part of Peter's complaints was that, reluctantly though, he agreed with reports that the overall management of the team in Paraguay was "weak".

He declined to make specific comments but strongly implied that he was asked to perform a number of duties which normally would have been the duty of officials.

The latest tantalising bandwagon in our soccer is the assistant coaching position under Gutendorf.

I have heard at least six or seven names mentioned as interested or likely contenders: Ray Richards, Les Scheinflug, Leo Baumgartner, John Watkiss, Raul Blanco and John Warren.

One wonders if Gutendorf is really such an unbearable monster when so many illustrious names queue up to serve under him.

Of course, it's a plum job: glamor, some remuneration and the distinct possibility of travel.

Then there is also a slim chance that Gutendorf and the ASF executive one day come into an open conflict; he resigns and, lo and behold, the assistant becomes No. 1.

So the ASF ought to examine very, very carefully the credentials of all candidates; not just their playing or coaching record but also their mental and intellectual suitability for the post.

— Andrew Dettre



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MANIAC OR MESSIAH?

Gutendorf plots for Socceroo glory

If nothing else Rudi Gutendorf is the most talked about German since Friedrich Leichhardt's days more than a century ago.

Leichhardt explored many remote parts of the Northern Territory; Gutendorf is dissecting and hopefully re-assembling Australian soccer at top level.

When you sip coffee vis-a-vis this intense, bespectacled blond German, he strikes you as an exceptionally pleasant, civilised soul.

Amidst his personal memorabilia scattered through his apartment overlooking genteel Elizabeth Bay in Sydney, smoking his short, slim cigars, he is Emily Post's perfect host.

He changes his tone when he talks about soccer: his jaw juts out, his blue eyes harden. It's a sensitive issue, not just life and death any more.

Those who have worked with him and under him, paint a more menacing picture: the contours are those of a man demanding, with harsh words and gesture, full attention and dedication, complete integrity and single-mindedness.

He's only been here six months but Australian cities are littered with Rudi-stories: whom he told off where, when and why.

In many ways he is a composite of two former Sydney coaches, Frank Arok and Rale Rasic; the former an almost puritanical zealot, the latter a dedicated but undiplomatic infighter.

To these qualities, Gutendorf adds a dimension of vast experience and expertise: at 50, after some 20 years in the business, he knows what components make up for success or failure in soccer.

He readily admits that he is a "hard" coach, firmly believing in discipline and precision.

"From what I hear Jimmy Shoulder was a nice guy and all the players loved him. I don't like it when a coach is loved. He should be respected, yes, and obeyed. Or dismissed. But not loved."

"I believe that everything should be aimed at the product — and here the product is the national team. With that, I accept no compromises and laxities."

"They pay me well to do this difficult job and I want to do it as well as possible. Surely they don't want me to have a good time here, be polite and nice to everybody, have all the players and officials love me — and then fail? Of course, it would be easier — but it's not me."

So far Gutendorf has only worked with the Young Australia team; now he is switching to the Socceroo.

"The young team gave me an invaluable introduction to Australian soccer."

"During the training sessions, camps, the tours of New Zealand and South America, I have seen what these players can and cannot do. It has also crystallised my thoughts about what to expect from the national team players."

"I want them to feel proud, very proud of having been selected and be prepared to bring some sacrifices to achieve their aims — our aims."

"Yes, I want achievers."

Now, within the next few weeks, Gutendorf will pack himself and his attractive wife Ute in their Mercedes and go on a 12-week soccer walkabout.

He plans to visit every capital city for about 10 days and, en route, drop into small towns and villages to show the soccer flag.

He'll meet and talk with anybody interested in soccer: local officials, referees, players, canteen ladies; those at the helm or on the peripheries of the game.

In the capital cities he will watch teams train and play and, if possible, on a free evening take some players from their clubs for special training to weigh them up.

He will also talk to club officials, State and club coaches and others, watch as many games as possible and, in the process, draw up the soccer cartography of Australia.

His ultimate aim: to find 25 players for the national squad.

"I must see the players in their home surroundings, how they perform, train and behave. I must see this with my own eyes,

not just rely on information, no matter how detailed it may be."

"After the 12 weeks, I'll announce the squad."

"Then I'd like to play with the Socceroo as many training matches as possible against PSL clubs," he says. "Preferably one every fortnight."

"I think with this you'd involve the clubs in the national team affairs and would help them, too, to be sharper."

"I'd also like to take the team on a two-week tour. Almost anywhere, as long as they play in front of foreign crowds."

"After the season, we should have a long overseas tour, about eight matches, in Asia and Europe."

"I'll arrange this when I go on holidays in July."

"It would be ideal if we could

minutes. We never touched the ball."

Gutendorf is anything but sentimental about the concepts how to build a national team.

"I want only those players who have the physical and mental preconditions to do the job I require."

"They also have to have the talent and potential."

"I will have to bypass players who are injury prone, suffer from nervous tension or cannot keep their temper on the field."

"I'm not going to take chances with them. That's why I have to think carefully about players such as Christopoulos, who cannot stand tension or Davidson who has been sent off twice on two tours."

"I am happy with Woodhouse, Selemidis, Tredinnick and Hogg.



Rudi Gutendorf

take part in at least one of the three major Asian tournaments, the Merdeka (Kuala Lumpur), the President's Cup (Seoul) or the King's Cup (Bangkok)."

The results in Paraguay, depressing as they may read, are acceptable to Gutendorf.

Naturally, he is unhappy about what he calls the "nil, nil, nil, nil goal-line" but, overall, not shattered.

"When I saw Paraguay in Montevideo, some two weeks before we met them, I said to myself my god, they'll murder us, it'll be 10-0 or 15-0."

"I was truly fearful of being beaten by an embarrassing score. Paraguay were that good."

"Look, they beat Chile, with their overaged and now imprisoned players, 5-0, then beat Colombia 6-0. They were the best team in the tournament."

"No; in the whole of South America. They should have won the South American championship — but they wanted to come third. It was a deal: they knew that the third placed team would hold another tournament and Paraguay wanted it badly."

"No wonder: they made a \$250,000 profit. So in their last match in Montevideo they played to lose 2-1 to an inferior Uruguay. There could have been some inducement, too, because Uruguay wanted to win for prestige reasons."

"This goes on in South America pretty often and they'd be surprised if you called it a crook deal. For them it's just practical."

"You'll see that Paraguay goes very close to winning the Cup in Japan in September."

"Against us in the first match only Woodhouse and luck saved us from being 6-0 down after 20

I'll consider all for the national squad."

"Krnecic? He was my No. 1 disappointment, a big flop. He didn't produce 20 per cent of his capabilities."

"Moulis and Milovanovic are just not good enough for a national team."

"But I'm not writing any of them off yet permanently: they will be critically watched and I hope one or two prove me wrong."

"Some failed in Paraguay, it's true. And a pity, too, because good soldiers are hardened under fire."

"I know it was tough on them. Look, the last training match before we left Australia was in Newcastle, watched by about 500 spectators. Yes, 500, when we played Hertha Berlin's amateurs."

"Then two weeks later the boys played Paraguay in front of 50,000 madly partisan spectators. It's unnerving. But still part of soccer. And the good and the great players can overcome this."

"I must say that I had not the slightest problem with the boys on the tour; they were well behaved, disciplined — the best I ever toured with. And that's a compliment, I hope they take it that way."

"Before we left I explained to them what were my standards and requirements."

"All the players accepted this; there were no complaints."

But there were some, later. One official had told Gutendorf in Paraguay that the players would like to have time off for shopping; another, in a telephone call to Sydney, called Gutendorf a "slave driver".

"I told the boys we didn't come

to Paraguay to do shopping; we are not tourists."

"It cost the ASF a lot of money to send us there, it's public money and should be responsibly spent."

"They accepted it. Later, when we had a three-day break between games, I let them go shopping for a few hours. But not before that."

He is less enthusiastic about his "support team" provided by some of the officials.

One, it turns out, was arriving a few minutes late to join the team leaving by bus for training."

"I had told everybody what time we would leave and asked them to be there. I said please."

"Then, of course, one wasn't there. So I said to the bus driver, 'vamos' (let's go)."

"Somebody said, 'Rudi wait, we can't go, so-and-so isn't here,' but I said too bad, next time he will come on time!"

He is also upset that he had to have a disagreement with the team doctor.

"It was not just the ice cream episode," he says. "It was about meal times."

"I said we wanted to eat 3½ hours before training and matches. Not three, not four — but 3½. Why? Because I know from long experience that it's the best."

"I also said what the boys should eat: little meat, plenty of carbohydrates. Now, it's my business to know this."

"In Germany we have spent fortunes on finding out about diets; why should I make a compromise on this?"

Gutendorf is upset, annoyed and disappointed that Young Australia lacked a playmaker — a sort of Overath or Brooking.

"So we had to arrange a system where this vital cog was not critical."

"But I also had another problem. With the available talent and without a true playmaker, I wanted to play strong, fast, tempo soccer."

"Yet our PSL teams don't play like this. Some State League teams do. Still, most of the players came from the PSL teams and there they didn't pick up the habit of a fast rhythm."

"Too many of our teams seem to teach youngsters the wrong habits: teams are satisfied with a 1-0 win and won't try to make it 3-0."

Gutendorf rejects the popular myth that, once again, we will have to fear only Iran as our main World Cup qualifying opponent.

"Iran may again have a good team in 1981 though, once their troubles are over, under a new regime, they are unlikely to spend so lavishly on soccer."

"But what about the others? Iraq is building a very strong team, under an East German coach: only two weeks ago they beat Sweden 1-0. And they did brilliantly in the recent World Military championship."

"They can keep their team together in the army for two or three years."

"Then there are the two Koreans: from all reports both are again getting strong and well organised. Israel always plays good soccer."

"They are lucky to be able to play top European teams so often."

"Serious challenges will come from everywhere and we must be prepared."

Gutendorf, possessing a rare 20/20 soccer vision, focuses entirely on the World Cup finals of 1982 in Spain.

"We want to go there and we will go there," he says, "provided we do everything possible in the meantime. That's our aim and we should go after it wholeheartedly."

"Australian soccer needs this stimulus and can obtain it — but not without sacrifices. But is anything worth having that comes easily?"

"In sport you must have long-term targets and ambitions and plan for their execution."

"I have these with the Socceroo. All I ask for is co-operation. I offer mine in return."

Promotion system may have hidden dangers

"Guided democracy" will be the keystone to the Philips League promotion and relegation system after the 1979 season.

Following years of casual discussions and heated debates, the PSL seems to have settled for a formula which, like Marxism, sounds equitable enough on paper but requires living saints to carry out.

Alas, saints are seldom interested in Marxism...

The formula was laid down by the ASF Leagues Committee which has 11 members: Five from the ASF, five from the PSL and president Sir Arthur George with the casting vote, which may one day be a castrating vote...

According to this formula, the system will be in force for four years.

The main commandments:

● The last two clubs on the championship table will be relegated — but will have the right to re-apply.

● Their application, together with any others, will be considered by the Leagues Committee which then decides whether— (a) one or both of the relegated teams stay relegated; (b) which new applicant or applicants take their places.

All this sounds simple enough and, over a cup of coffee and strudel, quite reasonable.

But there will be pitfalls galore.

Let's take the optimistic view that there are 11 men, tried and true, capable of assessing purely on merit the pros and cons of these applications, only for the good of soccer.

Where do we find them? The first pre-requisite should be a total absence of bias and personal involvement — but can the 10 State and PSL delegates be "accused" of that?

So the chances are that an extraordinary amount of horse-trading, deals, promises and threats will be made when the chips are down and this or that club's neck is on the chopping block.

Suppose, for argument's sake, that Brisbane Lions finish 13th or 14th and will have to re-apply for PSL status (as in the English Fourth Division).

Meanwhile, there is a club from nearby Ipswich which is keen to replace them.

Lions' application will be heard on known facts — their record, support, ground, etc., while Ipswich's purely on their sub-

mission and potential — always a prettier story than reality.

How can the Leagues Committee weigh one against the other? And how can the Queensland delegate be asked to vote impartially?

In principle, one must, albeit reluctantly, accept the fact that of the many bad promotion and relegation schemes mooted this is still probably the best.

The "traditional" system works well in soccer countries — but perhaps not in the PSL.

Otherwise we may end up with more teams from Sydney and Melbourne (instead of the desired less) and perhaps wipe out Newcastle and Canberra which have undoubted merits and futures even if not tomorrow or next year.

If this present system does apply as from the end of the 1979 season, the League Committee would be well advised to set down very definite guidelines and deadlines.

The guidelines, with clear definitions, must spell out on what facts the applications will be judged — as divorced from emotions.

These guidelines must be known to all PSL and State League clubs within the next few weeks — and not at Christmas, 1979.

The deadlines are equally important.

They must specify when non-PSL clubs must first submit their notice of intention; when they must put in their formal application and what these have to contain.

Then there is the matter of final decision. This should be made as soon as possible after the 1979 season — and not early 1980.

The clubs must know whether they will play in the PSL or in a State League at least five months beforehand in order to plan their budgets and campaigns.

No matter what decisions the Leagues Committee will eventually make, there will be always some who suffer or seem to suffer because of it.

But at least the system must appear fair, logical and orderly if we want to avoid slipping from guided democracy into dictatorship, a pretty common occurrence in that twilight zone — A.D.

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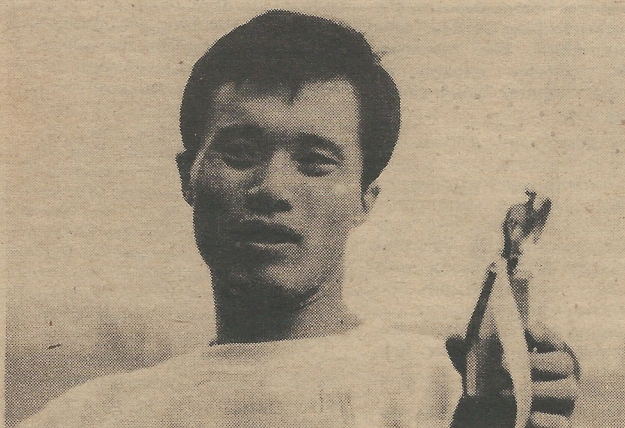
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Youth Cup draw made in Tokyo



Can Japan's youth team next August produce a worthy successor to the great Kamamoto (pictured), possibly the best player ever in Asia?

In a Tokyo hotel, FIFA has arranged the draw of the Coca-Cola World Youth Cup finals.

The matches start on August 25 and the final is played on September 8, in Tokyo's Olympic stadium.

These are the four groups:

"A" (playing in Tokyo, Saitama and Kanagawa): Japan, Spain, Mexico, Algeria.

"B" (Tokyo, Saitama, Kanagawa): Poland, Yugoslavia, Argentina, North Korea.

"C" (Kobe): Canada, Portugal, Paraguay, South Korea.

"D" (Hiroshima): USSR, Hungary, Uruguay, Guinea.

Two teams from each group qualify for the quarterfinals.

- Didier Six, the brilliant left winger, was dropped by French manager Hidalgo from the team against Luxembourg because of a drunken driving police charge. France still won 3-0 in Paris — without Platini, Janvion, Lopez and other stalwarts.

- Enzo Bearzot gambled well with the Italian team against Holland: Despite their poor recent form he included all the Juventus stars — and they excelled. "They played better than in Argentina," said Dutch manager Zwartkruis. Holland played without Rensenbrink, Geels, Haan, Neeskens and Krol in the 0-3 match.

- Eintracht Frankfurt lost 0-2 to the Hungarian Olympic team in a friendly match at Salgotarjan.

- Racing Strasbourg are leading the French championship race by four points.

- Tunisia and Bayern Munchen have played a 0-0 draw in Tunis.

- Japan last Saturday defeated South Korea 2-1 in a friendly international in Tokyo.

- Hungary's Ujpest has just completed an extensive Latin American tour, playing 10 games and losing only one — this against Alianza Lima, in Peru, 5-3. Peru's ace Cubillas alone scored four goals.

- The USSR beat the Italian B team 3-1 in Bologna, watched by 18,000 spectators.

- According to Frankfurt's ex-German international star Jurgen Grabowski the next glory era in the Bundesliga belongs to Stuttgart and Hamburg.

- Malcolm Macdonald, the former England international, has transferred from Arsenal to the Swedish Djurgarden.

- In their second tour match, Poland beat Tunisia 3-0 in Sfax with goals by Sibis (2) and Mazur.

- American teams are doing quite well nowadays against touring sides: The San Diego Sockers beat Dynamo Moscow 5-2.

- Bosko Jankovics, Sarajevo's Yugoslav star, has been signed by Middlesbrough.

- Avi Cohen, Israel's 22-year-old fullback star, is with Liverpool for a trial period. His club, Maccabi, wants to release him only after June.

- Johan Neeskens has confirmed rumors that he will leave Barcelona at the end of the season. His likely new club is the French Strasbourg.

- Bologna have just sacked their third manager in two years: Mario Perani has been dismissed because of the team's dismal performance (second last on the table) and replaced by former player Cesarino Cervellati.

- The soccer invasion of England continues: The latest likely newcomers are Lacombe and Christophe from France (to West Ham), Oblitas and Rojas from Peru (to Brighton), Borota and Jankovic from Yugoslavia (to Chelsea and Middlesbrough).

- Ex-German international Berti Vogts' benefit match will be on May 15 when Monchengladbach plays Germany. Gladbach will also have a few guest players: Keegan, Kempes, Jensen, Le Fevre and present Hamburg manager Netzer. Vogts is likely to receive about \$40,000 from the game — before tax. And it's not so very much when you consider that the gross takings will be about \$120,000.

- Former all-time Brazil star Djalma Santos celebrated his 50th birthday last week.

- Other recent birthdays: Sepp Maier, 35, and former Italian star, Gino Colaussi, 65.

- "It's an insult to play on such a rotten surface," said West German goalie Sepp Maier after the international against Malta; the ground is rock hard dirt.

- Borussia Monchengladbach is anxious to buy back Rainer Bonhof from the Spanish Valencia. "We'll pay what we got for him," said a club official. The sum was \$700,000.

- Arsenal's brilliant Irish star Liam Brady is one of the candidates for England's Player of the Year award.

- Spanish international defender Camacho had an operation in a Paris hospital for cartilage.

- Jacek Gmoch, the recently resigned Polish national team manager, will join the Norwegian club, Skeid Oslo, for the new season.

- China is keen to get into the mainstream of world soccer: In 1980 they will play a full international against West Germany. (They are playing one right now against Vietnam...)

- Should Valencia qualify for any of the three Euro-Cups next season, they will have to play their first home match at least 300 km from Valencia — a punishment for their crowd's behaviour in the match against West Brom.

Banks — best or safest?

Italy's "Guerin Sportivo" magazine has named Gordon Banks as the best goalkeeper of this century.

The calculations were based on how many goals the most famous 'keepers conceded in international matches.

This is the order:

1, Banks, England (0.78 goals per match); 2, Maier, Germany (0.80); 3, Albertosi, Italy (0.82); 4,

Zoff, Italy (0.84); 5, Zamora, Spain (0.91); 6, Yashin, USSR (0.93); 7, Gilmar, Brazil (1.01); 8, Grosics, Hungary (1.04); 9, Combi, Italy (1.38); 10, Beara, Yugoslavia (1.45), and 11, Planicka, Czechoslovakia (1.72).

Of course, these interesting statistics don't take into account the strength of the team, opponents, etc., in the matches under review.

BAYERN ACE FREE TO GO

In a dramatic turn of events, Bayern Munchen president Willy Neudecker has granted Gerd Mueller a free transfer and the former goal-getting ace can now join any club, anywhere, unhindered.

This followed a bitter exchange of accusations between Mueller and the club.

Neudecker's decision was based on an earlier agreement that Bayern would receive 50 per cent of the revenue from Mueller's farewell match later this season.

But now there are further complications. Beckenbauer, invited to play in the game, has allegedly demanded a third of the takings.

"Whoever heard of such a thing?" says Mueller. "Isn't it my farewell match?"

"I rang Beckenbauer in New York. He said, 'Ask my manager, Schwan.' I must say it's lovely treatment from friends."

Mueller, bitter and frustrated, is likely to go to the USA soon.

"Then I'll write a book. They'll all be sorry. I'll tell all and name names. They'll be shocked."

- Roberto Rivelino, the former Brazilian star now with Saudi Arabia's El Halal, is spending his four-month annual holiday in Rio and is guesting for his old club, Fluminense.

- Five thousand people, including top names of Italian soccer, attended the funeral of Nereo Rocco, the former AC Milan coach. Gianni Rivera, Milan's former "golden boy", and several of his teammates were among the pallbearers.

- Sweden will play 10 internationals in 1979 including their European Championship games against France, Czechoslovakia and Luxembourg.

- The latest club showing active interest in French star Michel Platini is Wolverhampton.

- Mike Flanagan, Charlton Athletic's striker, has joined Tampa Bay Rowdies in the USA.



Sir Matt Busby, former wizard of Manchester United, now an outvoted member of the Board.

UNITED POISED TO BANKROLL OVERDUE REVIVAL

It's 10 years since Sir Matt Busby stepped down from the front-line of soccer action...

A decade of wondering and worrying for the grand old man of English football.

Although the name of Manchester United is still one of the most respected in the game and their team are still consistently the top crowd-pullers all over the country, the success they enjoyed under Busby still eludes them.

In the last 10 years they have been twice to the Final of the FA Cup, winning at Wembley in 1977 under Tommy Docherty.

No one will deny The Reds that moment of glory, but even The Doc conceded that luck plays a big part in Cup fortune.

The harsh reality is the fact that Manchester United have not really had a team that has looked capable of winning the League Championship since the legendary reign of Sir Matt and his assistant, Jimmy Murphy.

The most successful partnership in the history of League football kept United in the forefront for 23 years. They created not one, but three, great teams, survived Munich and brought Old Trafford to a pinnacle of success in 1968 when they became the first English club to win the European Cup.

It was soon after that triumph that Sir Matt decided it was time to move over and let a younger man take over the helm.

He had become conscious of the fact the demands of the club he had taken from rags to riches were such he was becoming remote from the players.

First he took up a general managerial role and eventually he became a director... but so far he has not seen anyone following in his famous footsteps who has been able to give Old Trafford the success the support, money and image demands.

In fact, the last 10 years have really been nothing but a sad and sorry succession of disappointments and problems that have threatened to destroy the very fabric of Manchester United. It's largely been a story of sacked managers, distressing court cases, a domestic club scandal and controversial power politics at the top.

The fans still make Manchester United the best supported club in the country and they have had moments when the old Red Devils gave a twitch of their former selves.

They roared back in style from the Second Division and two trips to Wembley in successive seasons did a lot to restore faith in the future, but overall Sir Matt must still be

wondering when it is all going to come good again.

He was bitterly upset when his plan to hand over the reins to young Wilf McGuinness and keep the management within the Old Trafford family failed to work out.

Wilf was sacked after 18 months and though Frank O'Farrell brought a great deal more experience as his successor, he only lasted a year and a half as well.

It looked for some time as if Tommy Docherty was going to justify the tough line policy of the board by giving them the success they by now so desperately needed and in many ways he did.

The Doc spent heavily and then went on to stabilise the club's finances, and though he took them down into the Second Division he brought them back straightaway with a swashbuckling style that both was exciting and entertaining.

But even at the height of the FA Cup triumph there was an unease in the background about some aspects of the manner of The Doc's management.

For people like Sir Matt, Docherty was upsetting too many people and making enemies of too many players. There were rumors coming back to the club of their manager's involvement with the kind of deals that did little to enhance their dignity.

Their fears seemed founded when The Doc tarnished the glory and glitter of the Cup by running off with the wife of the club's physiotherapist.

They sacked him to bring a man of quite different temperament to Old Trafford in Dave Sexton, a manager who dislikes personal publicity and who in direct contrast to his predecessor remains a rather shadowy figure as far as most supporters are concerned.

Tommy Docherty's libel case against former United winger Willie Morgan and Granada Television ended as a personal disaster for The Doc, and it did little for the reputation of Manchester United.

This is the kind of background that has cast something of a shadow over the management of Dave Sexton, and undoubtedly made his task more difficult.

Manchester United did not win every match in the Busby era, but they usually managed to look worthy opponents for anyone, even against the best in Europe.

Ten years and four managers later they are still searching for the mastery and magic that was once the hallmark of their football.

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